



2017 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 113

February 21, 2018 - Introduced by Representatives PETRYK and KOLSTE. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** declaring August as Shingles Awareness and Improvement Month.

2 Whereas, herpes zoster (shingles) is a disease caused by the same virus (zoster)
3 that causes chicken pox; therefore, any individual who has contracted chicken pox
4 is at risk for shingles (approximately 98 percent of U.S. adults); and

5 Whereas, nearly one in three people in the United States will contract shingles
6 in their lifetime, corresponding to an estimated one million people annually; and

7 Whereas, risk of shingles increases with age, with nearly half of those affected
8 are over 60 years and half of people living until 85 years of age will develop shingles;
9 and

10 Whereas, shingles is a viral infection that causes a painful rash that can be
11 severe along with other symptoms including long-term nerve pain, fever, headache,
12 chills, upset stomach, muscle weakness, skin infection, scarring, decrease or loss of
13 vision or hearing; and

14 Whereas, as much as 20 percent of adults who have contracted shingles will
15 develop postherpetic neuralgia, a debilitating complication of shingles that causes

1 severe pain, that may interfere with sleep and recreational activities, and be
2 associated with clinical depression; and

3 Whereas, vaccines have reduced the burden of widespread and often fatal
4 diseases, enabling individuals to lead longer and healthier lives while reducing
5 health care costs; and

6 Whereas, although much attention has been paid to the importance of
7 childhood vaccinations, there is a general lack of awareness of adult-recommended
8 vaccines, and a misperception that immunizations are unnecessary for healthy
9 adults; and

10 Whereas, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
11 and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend that
12 healthy adults 50 years and older be vaccinated against shingles to prevent shingles
13 and shingles-related complications; and

14 Whereas, despite the recommendations of CDC officials and other experts that
15 all healthy adults be vaccinated against shingles, as of 2015 only 30 percent of
16 eligible adults had received the shingles vaccine; and

17 Whereas, the annual economic burden of shingles in American adults is
18 estimated to be between \$782 million and \$5.0 billion; and

19 Whereas, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) has stated that one of the six causes
20 of excess costs in the U.S. healthcare system is missed prevention opportunities; and

21 Whereas, millions of American adults go without routine and recommended
22 vaccinations because our medical system is not set up to ensure that adults receive
23 regular preventive healthcare; and

24 Whereas, as the month of August is observed as National Immunization
25 Awareness Month, residents of Wisconsin should be encouraged to speak with their

1 healthcare provider to ensure that they have been properly vaccinated against
2 shingles according to current CDC and ACIP recommendations; now, therefore, be
3 it

4 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
5 State Legislature recognizes August as “Shingles Awareness and Improvement
6 Month” in Wisconsin to increase public awareness of the importance of adults
7 receiving vaccines against shingles, and to promote outreach and education efforts
8 concerning adult vaccination; and, be it further

9 ***Resolved, That*** the Department of Health Services is encouraged to promote
10 Shingles Awareness and Improvement Month, including urging health care
11 practitioners to discuss vaccines for shingles with adult patients and adopting
12 appropriate programs and initiatives to raise public awareness of the importance of
13 adult vaccination; and, be it further

14 ***Resolved, That*** the Department of Health Services is encouraged to distribute
15 educational resources on shingles and shingles vaccination, to educate the residents
16 of Wisconsin that shingles is a vaccine-preventable diseases.

17 (END)